

# VIR

4. Unjustly assailable; murderous.  
Some *violent* hands were laid on Humphry's life. *Shakefp.*  
A foe subtle or *violent*. *Milton.*
5. Unequally vehement.  
We might be reckoned fierce and *violent*, to tear away  
that, which, if our mouths did condemn, our consciences  
would form and repine thereat. *Hooker.*  
The covetous extortioner should remember, that such *vio-*  
*lents* shall not take heaven, but hell by force. *Decay of Piety.*  
6. Extorted; not voluntary.  
Vows made in pain, are *violent* and void. *Milton.*  
**VIOLENTLY**, *adv.* [from *violent*.] With force; forcibly; ve-  
hemently.  
Temp'rately proceed to what you would  
Thus *violently* redress. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*  
Flame burneth more *violently* towards the sides, than in the  
middle. *Bacon.*  
Ancient privileges must not, without great necessities, be  
revoked, nor forfeitures be exacted *violently*, nor penal laws  
urged rigorously. *Taylor's Rule of living holy.*
- VIOLET**, *n. f.* [*viollette*, Fr. *viola*, Lat.] A plant.  
It hath a polypetalous anomalous flower, somewhat re-  
sembling the papilionaceous flower; for its two upper petals  
represent the standard, the two side ones the wings; but the  
lower one, which ends in a tail, resembles the iris. Out of  
the empalement arises the pointal, which becomes a three-cor-  
nered fruit opening into three parts, and full of roundish  
seeds. There are nine species. *Miller.*  
When daisies pied, and *violets* blue,  
Do paint the meadows much bedight. *Shakefp.*  
Sweet echo, sweetest nymph that liv'st unseen,  
By flow Meander's margent green,  
And in the *violet*-embroider'd vale. *Milton.*  
It alters not our simple idea, whether we think that blue  
be in the *violet* itself, or in our mind only; and only the  
power of producing it by the texture of its parts, to be in  
the *violet* itself. *Locke.*
- VIOLIN**, *n. f.* [*violon*, Fr. from *viol*.] A fiddle; a stringed  
instrument of music.  
Praise with timbrels, organs, flutes;  
Praise with *violins*, and lutes. *Sandys.*  
Sharp *violins* proclaim  
Their jealous pangs, and desperation,  
For the fair disdainful dame. *Dryden.*
- VIOLINIST**, *n. f.* [from *viol*.] A player on the viol.
- VIOLOCE'LLLO**, *n. f.* [Italian.] A stringed instrument of  
music.
- VIPER**, *n. f.* [*vipera*, Lat.]  
1. A serpent of that species which brings its young alive, of  
which most are poisonous.  
A *viper* came out of the heat, and fastened on his  
hand. *Acts xxviii. 3.*  
He'll gall of asps with thrifty lips suck in;  
The *viper's* deadly teeth shall pierce his skin. *Sandys.*  
*Viper*-catchers have a remedy, in which they place such  
great confidence, as to be no more afraid of the bite of a  
*viper*, than of a common puncture. This is no other than  
axungia viperina, presently rubbed into the wound. *Derham.*
2. Any thing mischievous.  
Where is this *viper*,  
That would depopulate the city, and  
Be every man himself? *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*
- VIPERINE**, *n. f.* [*viperinus*, Lat.] Belonging to a viper.
- VIPEROUS**, *adj.* [*viperous*, Lat. from *viper*.] Having the qua-  
lities of a *viper*.  
My tender years can tell,  
Civil dissention is a *viperous* worm,  
That gnaws the bowels of the commonwealth. *Shakefp.*  
We are perempory to dispatch  
This *viperous* traitor. *Shakefp.*  
Some *viperous* critick may bereave  
Th' opinion of thy worth for some defect. *Daniel's Musaph.*
- VIPER'S BUGLOSS**, *n. f.* [*echium*, Lat.] A plant.  
The characters are, the cup of the flower is large, and  
divided into five long slender segments; the flower consists of  
one leaf, is shaped like a funnel, and somewhat inflected,  
having its upper part stretched, but in a greater length than  
the lower: the upper part, or galea of the flower, is divided  
into two; and the lower part, or beard, into three parts: in  
the middle of the flower are produced five stamina (or  
threads) which are reflexed. Each flower is succeeded by  
four seeds, which are in form of a viper's head. *Miller.*
- VIPER'S GRASS**, *n. f.* [*scorzonera*, Lat.] A plant.  
It hath a semi-floiculous flower, consisting of many half  
florets, which rest upon the embryos, which are included in  
one common empalement, which is scaly: the embryos af-  
terwards become oblong seeds, which are furnished with  
down. *Miller.*
- VIRAGO**, *n. f.* [Latin.]  
1. A female warrior; a woman with the qualities of a man.  
Melpomene represented like a *virago* or manly lady, with  
a majestic and grave countenance. *Peacham.*

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- To arms! to arms! the fierce *virago* cries,  
And swift as lightning to the combat flies. *Pope.*  
2. It is commonly used in detestation for an impudent turbulent  
woman.  
**VIR'ELAY**, *n. f.* [*virolay*, *virolai*, Fr.] A sort of little an-  
cient French poem, that consisted only of two rhymes and  
short verses, with strops.  
The mournful muse in mirth now list ne make,  
As she was wont in youth and summer days;  
But if thou algate list like *virolays*,  
And looser songs of love to underlong.  
The band of flutes began to play,  
To which a lady sung a *virolay*.  
And still at ev'ry close she would repeat  
The burden of the song, the daisy is so sweet. *Dryden.*- VIR'ENT**, *adj.* [*virens*, Lat.] Green; not faded.  
In these, yet fresh and *virant*, they carve out the figures  
of men and women. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- VIR'GE**, *n. f.* [*virga*, Lat. better *verge*, from *verge*, French.]  
A dean's mace.  
Suppose him now a dean compleat,  
Devoutly loling in his seat;  
The silver *virge*, with decent pride,  
Stuck underneath his cushion side. *Swift.*
- VIRGIN**, *n. f.* [*virgo*, Fr. *virgo*, Lat.]  
1. A maid; a woman unacquainted with men.  
This aspect of mine hath fear'd the valiant;  
The best regarded *virgins* of our clime  
Have lov'd it too. *Shakefp.*  
Senseless bauble!  
Art thou a sedary for this act, and look't  
So *virgin*-like without? *Shakefp. Cymbeline.*  
The damsel was very fair, and a *virgin*. *Gen. xxiv. 16.*  
Angelo is an adulterous thief,  
An hypocrite, a *virgin* violator.  
Much less can that have any place,  
At which a *virgin* hides her face. *Shakefp.*
- 2. A woman not a mother. Unusual. *Cowley.*  
Likely to Ceres in her prime,  
Yet *virgin* of Proserpina from Jove. *Milton.*
- 3. Any thing untouched or unmingled.  
Tapers of white wax, commonly called *virgin* wax, burn  
with less smoke than common yellow wax. *Boyle.*  
I have found *virgin* earth in the peat-marshes of  
Cheshire. *Woodward.*
- 4. The sign of the zodiack in which the sun is in August.  
Thence down again by Leo and the *Virgin*. *Milton.*
- VIRGIN**, *adj.* Besitting a virgin; suitable to a virgin; maidenly.  
Can you blame her then, being a maid, yet robed over  
with the *virgin* crimson of modesty, if she deny the appear-  
ance of a naked blind boy. *Shakefp. Hen. V.*  
What says the silver with her *virgin* hue?  
With ease a brother o'ercame  
The formal decencies of *virgin*-thame. *Cowley.*
- To **VIRGIN**, *v. n.* [a cant word.] To play the virgin.  
A kiss  
Long as my exile, sweet as my revenge!  
I carried from thee, my dear; and my true lip  
Hath *virgin'd* it e'er since. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*
- VIRGINAL**, *adj.* [from *virgin*.] Maiden; maidenly; per-  
taining to a virgin.  
On the earth more fair was never seen,  
Of chastity and honour *virginal*. *Fairy Queen.*  
Tears *virginal*  
Shall be to me even as the dew to fire;  
And beauty, that the tyrant oft reclaims,  
Shall to my flaming wrath be oil and flax. *Shakefp.*  
Purity is a special part of this superstructure, restraining  
of all desires of the flesh within the known limits of conju-  
gal or *virginal* chastity. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*
- To **VIRGINAL**, *v. n.* To pat; to strike as on the virginal.  
A cant word. *Shakefp.*  
Still *virginal*ling upon thy palm.
- VIRGINAL**, *n. f.* [more usually *virginals*.] A musical instru-  
ment so called, because commonly used by young ladies.  
The musician hath produced two means of straining strings.  
The one is stopping them with the finger, as in the necks of  
lutes and viols; the other is the shortness of the string, as in  
harps and *virginals*. *Bacon.*
- VIRGINITY**, *n. f.* [*virginitas*, Lat.] Maidenhead; unacquaint-  
ance with man.  
You do impeach your modesty too much,  
To trust the opportunity of night,  
And the ill counsel of a desert place,  
With the rich worth of your *virginity*. *Shakefp.*  
Natural *virginity* of itself is not a state more acceptable to  
God; but that which is chosen in order to the conveniences  
of religion, and separation from worldly incumbrances. *Taylor.*
- VIRILE**, *n. f.* [*virilis*, Lat.] Belonging to man; not puerile;  
not feminine. *VIRILITY.*

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- VIRILITY**, *n. f.* [*virilité*, Fr. *virilitas*, Lat. from *virile*.]  
1. Manhood; character of man.  
The lady made generous advances to the borders of  
*virility*. *Rambler.*- 2. Power of procreation.  
The great climacterical was past, before they begat chil-  
dren, or gave any testimony of their *virility*; for none begat  
children before the age of sixty-five. *Brown.*
- VIRMI'LION**, *n. f.* Properly *vermilion*. A red colour.  
Egle, the fairest Nais of the flood,  
With a *vermilion* dye his temples stain'd. *Roscommon.*
- VIR'TUAL**, *adj.* [*virtuel*, Fr. from *virtue*.] Having the effi-  
cacy without the sensible or material part.  
Metalline waters have *virtual* cold in them. Put there-  
fore wood into smith's water, and try whether it will not  
harden. *Bacon.*  
Heat and cold have a *virtual* transition, without commu-  
nication of substance. *Bacon.*  
Love not the heav'nly spirits? And how their love  
Express they? by looks only? or, do they mix  
Irradiance? *virtual*, or immediate touch? *Milton.*  
Every kind that lives,  
Fomented by his *virtual* pow'r, and warm'd. *Milton.*  
Neither an actual or *virtual* intention of the mind, but only  
that which may be gathered from the outward acts. *Stillington.*
- VIR'TUALITY**, *n. f.* [from *virtual*.] Efficacy.  
In one grain of corn there lieth dormant a *virtuality* of  
many other, and from thence sometimes proceed an hundred  
ears. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- VIR'TUALLY**, *adv.* [from *virtual*.] In effect, though not formally.  
They are *virtually* contained in other words still con-  
tinued. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*  
Such is our constitution, that the bulk of the people *vir-*  
*tually* give their approbation to every thing they are bound to  
obey. *Addison.*
- To **VIR'TUATE**, *v. a.* [from *virtue*.] To make efficacious.  
Potable gold should be endued with a capacity of being  
assimilated to the innate heat, and radical moisture; or at  
least *virtuated* with a power of generating the said essen-  
tials. *Harvey.*
- VIR'TUE**, *n. f.* [*virtus*, Lat.]  
1. Moral goodness.  
Either I'm mistaken, or there is *virtue* in that Falstaff. *Shakefp.*  
If there's a power above us,  
And that there is, all nature cries aloud  
Through all her works, he must delight in *virtue*,  
And that which he delights in must be happy. *Addison.*  
*Virtue* only makes our bliss below.  
The character of prince Henry is improved by Shakefp.;  
and through the veil of his vices and irregularities, we see a  
dawn of greatness and *virtue*. *Shakefp. illustrated.*
- 2. A particular moral excellence.  
In Belmont is a lady,  
And she is fair, and fairer than that word,  
Of wondrous *virtues*. *Shakefp. Merchant of Venice.*  
Remember all his *virtues*,  
And shew mankind that goodness is your care. *Addison.*
- 3. Medicinal quality.  
All bless secrets,  
All you unpublisch'd *virtues* of the earth,  
Be aidant and remediate. *Shakefp. K. Lear.*  
The virtuous bezoar is taken from the beast that feedeth  
upon the mountains; and that without *virtue* from those that  
feed in the valleys. *Bacon.*
- 4. Medicinal efficacy.  
An essay writer must practise the chymical method, and  
give the *virtue* of a full draught in a few drops. *Addison.*
- 5. Efficacy; power.  
If neither words, nor herbs will do, I'll try stones; for  
there's a *virtue* in them. *L'Estrange.*  
Where there is a full purpose to please God, there, what  
a man can do, shall, by *virtue* thereof, be accepted. *South.*  
They are not sure, by *virtue* of syllogism, that the con-  
clusion certainly follows from the premises. *Locke.*  
This they shall attain, partly in *virtue* of the promise made  
by God; and partly in *virtue* of piety. *Athenbury.*  
He used to travel through Greece, by *virtue* of this fable,  
which procured him reception in all the towns. *Addison.*
- 6. Acting power.  
Jesus knowing that *virtue* had gone out of him, turned  
him about. *Mark v. 30.*
- 7. Secret agency; efficacy, without visible or material action.  
She moves the body, which the doth possels;  
Yet no part toucheth, but by *virtue's* touch. *Davies.*
- 8. Bravery; valour.  
Trust to thy single *virtue*; for thy soldiers  
Took their discharge. *Shakefp. K. Lear.*  
The conquest of Palestine, with singular *virtue* they per-  
formed, and held that kingdom some few generations. *Raleigh.*
- 9. Excellence; that which gives excellence.  
In the Greek poets, as also in Plautus, the oeconomy of  
poems is better observed than in Terence; who thought the

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- sole grace and *virtue* of their fable, the sticking in of sen-  
tences, as ours do the forcing in of jests. *B. Johnson.*- 10. One of the orders of the celestial hierarchy.  
Thrones, domination, principdoms, *virtues*, pow'rs. *Milt.*  
A winged *virtue* through th' etherial sky,  
From orb to orb unwearied dost thou fly. *Tickell.*
- VIR'TUELESS**, *adj.* [from *virtue*.]  
1. Wanting virtue; deprived of virtue.  
2. Not having efficacy; without operating qualities.  
All second causes, together with nature herself, without  
that operative faculty which God gave them, would become  
altogether silent, *virtueless*, and dead. *Raleigh.*  
*Virtueless* the wilst all herbs and charms,  
Wherewith false men increase their patients harms. *Fairfax.*  
Some would make those glorious creatures *virtueless*. *Flakevill.*
- VIR'TUOSO**, *n. f.* [Italian.] A man skilled in antique or na-  
tural curiosities; a man studious of painting, statuary, or  
architecture.  
Methinks those generous *virtuosi* dwell in a higher region  
than other mortals. *Glanville.*  
*Virtuosi*, the Italians call a man who loves the noble arts,  
and is a critick in them. And amongst our French painters,  
the word *virtueux* is understood in the same signification. *Dryd.*  
This building was beheld with admiration by the *virtuosi*  
of that time. *Tatler, No. 52.*  
Showers of rain are now met with in every water-work;  
and the *virtuosi* of France covered a little vault with arti-  
ficial snow. *Addison.*
- VIR'TUOUS**, *adj.* [from *virtue*.]  
1. Morally good.  
If his occasion were not *virtuous*,  
I should not urge it half so faithfully. *Shakefp. Cæsar.*  
*Virtuous* and holy, be thou conqueror. *Shakefp.*  
What the wills to do or say,  
Is wisest, *virtuous*, discreetest, best. *Milton.*  
Favour'd of heav'n, who finds  
One *virtuous* rarely found,  
That in domestick good combines:  
Happy that house! his way to peace is smooth. *Milton.*
- 2. [Applied to women.] Chaste.  
Mistress Ford, the modest wife, the *virtuous* creature, that  
hath the jealous fool to her husband! *Shakefp.*
- 3. Done in consequence of moral goodness.  
Nor love is always of a vicious kind,  
But oft to *virtuous* acts inflames the mind. *Dryden.*
- 4. Efficacious; powerful.  
With one *virtuous* touch, th' arch-chemic sun,  
Produces, with terrestrial humour mix'd,  
Here in the dark, so many precious things. *Milton.*
- 5. Having wonderful or eminent properties.  
Out of his hand,  
That *virtuous* steel he rudely snatch'd away. *Fairy Queen.*  
Lifting up his *virtuous* staff on high,  
He smote the sea, which calmed was with speed. *Spenser.*  
He own'd that *virtuous* ring and glass. *Milton.*
- 6. Having medicinal qualities.  
Some observe that there is a *virtuous* bezoar, and another  
without virtue; the *virtuous* is taken from the beast that feedeth  
where there are theriacal herbs; and that without  
virtue, from those that feed where no such herbs are. *Bacon.*  
The ladies fought around  
For *virtuous* herbs, which, gather'd from the ground,  
They squeez'd the juice; and cooling ointment made. *Dryd.*
- VIR'TUOUSLY**, *adv.* [from *virtuous*.] In a virtuous manner;  
according to the rules of virtue.  
The Gods are my witnesses, I desire to do *virtuously*. *Sidney.*  
In sum, they taught the world no less *virtuously* how to  
die, than they had done before how to live. *Hooker.*  
They that mean *virtuously*, and yet do so,  
The devil their virtue tempts not, they tempt heav'n. *Shak.*  
Not from grey hairs authority doth flow,  
Nor from bald heads, nor from a wrinkled brow;  
But our past life, when *virtuously* spent,  
Must to our age those happy fruits present. *Denham.*  
The coffeeman has a little daughter four years old, who  
has been *virtuously* educated. *Addison.*
- VIR'TUOUSNESS**, *n. f.* [from *virtuous*.] The state or character  
of being virtuous.  
Many other adventures are intermeddled; as the love of  
Britomert, and *virtuousness* of Belphebe; and the lascivious-  
ness of Helenora. *Spenser.*
- VIRULENCE**, *n. f.* [from *virulent*.] Mental poison; malig-  
nity; acrimony of temper; bitterness.  
Disputes in religion are managed with *virulence* and bitter-  
ness. *Decay of Piety.*  
It infills into their minds the utmost *virulence*, instead of  
that charity which is the perfection and ornament of reli-  
gion. *Addison.*  
The whigs might easily have maintained a majority among  
the clergy, if they had not too much encouraged this in-  
temperance of speech, and *virulence* of pen, in the most pro-  
fitable of their party. *Swift.*